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A Thousand Topics for Composition

Compiled by MARJORIE E. FOX

Graduate Student, University of Illinois

Because having something to say is the first requirement for good writing, the most constructive method of teaching composition is through an approach to subject matter. If a student has something to say he will be interested in saying it well so that he may transmit his ideas accurately and clearly to the reader. If he understands that the purpose of his writing is to convey experience and thought rather than to demonstrate sentence construction and the proper use of punctuation, his writing will have added interest and meaning. It is the teacher's first job to convince the student that he has something worth saying.

A list of theme topics should be as useful a tool for the instructor as a handbook or grammar. It was in the hope of preparing such a tool that the following lists were compiled. The sources used were the lists of subjects suggested by eighty-five different instructors for the final examination themes in Freshman Rhetoric at the University of Illinois for the semester ending January 1947. The following 1,000 topics were selected from 1,825 examined. The selection was made chiefly in an attempt to avoid repetition. Some repetition is still noticeable under the different groupings, but in such cases the various treatments possible seemed to justify a second listing. The topics for exposition which dealt with current events were most repeated. Such topics will be of less permanent value than the others because their interest is in their timeliness. It is hoped that they may suggest other topics related to more current affairs.

The groupings are somewhat arbitrary. The topics are listed according to subject matter, though the subjects for exposition have been broken up in some cases to indicate methods of treatment. It is hoped that this will be an added convenience for the

teacher who assigns a theme with a particular method of development in mind. The lists do not include all possible kinds of treatment, and topics from one list could, if the writer chose, be developed to fit another pattern.

An examination of the subjects suggested by the Rhetoric Staff reveals an effort to choose topics closely related to contemporary events and to personal experience. Emphasis is on personal experience and personal reaction because this is the one kind of subject matter at every student's disposal. Good handling of some of the other topics depends on the student's fund of information and facts. Many of the subjects are aimed at the veteran. There is little fantasy or whimsy in the suggestions. This indicates that the college instructor believes that the best writing comes from experience and requires a keen observation of people and events, an awareness of the world — the immediate campus world and the world at large — plus use of all of the senses.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

1. My first fight.
2. My first date.
3. My first encounter with the law.
4. My first semester in college.
(Next semester will be better.)
5. My first encounter with racial discrimination.
6. My first job.
7. My first spanking. (On being punished for the first time.)
8. My first dollar.
9. My first formal dance.
10. My first ten years were the hardest.
11. My most important decision and why I made it.
12. My most embarrassing moment.
13. The most stupid thing I ever did.
14. My most serious accident.
15. My narrowest escape.
16. The longest minute I ever spent.
17. The wisest thing I ever did.
18. Prize memory of 1946. (Regrets of 1946.)
19. A Christmas thrill. (Christmas this year.)
20. Thoughts on New Year's Eve.
21. How I learned to drive a car.
22. How I learned to dance.
23. An unforgettable experience.
24. The fun of being sick.
25. Moving into a strange town.
26. Thoughts on being out late at night.
27. Learning to like vegetables.
28. One of life's comedies (or tragedies) in which I played a star part.
29. Things I have lost.
30. A mistake I vow never to repeat. (I'll never do that again.)
31. The dog (or other pet) in my life.
32. I sold papers. (A job I have held.) (My summer job.)
33. I was a soda jerk (waitress, machinist, laundry man, salesman.)
34. Musical memories. (Songs my mother taught me.)
35. Memories of home.
36. What I learned from Dad.
37. A tradition (or custom) in our family (neighborhood, section, state, or country).
38. How my family celebrates Easter (or some other holiday).
39. The origin of my family name.
40. My ancestors. (Page from my family history.)
41. Meet the family.

42. What I have inherited.
43. The "400" in my home town.
44. An inexpensive good time.
45. An experiment I once tried.
46. My big moment.
47. Happy ending.
48. I expected too much.
49. I was in a hurry, and ———.
50. I don't feel that way anymore.
(I've changed my mind.)
51. I was scared.
52. That was a vacation! ("Having
a wonderful time.")
53. A trip to the fair (church,
theater, zoo).
54. A sports event I will never
forget.
55. An initiation I will always
remember.
56. An obstacle I overcame (or
must overcome).
57. A hunting (fishing) trip.
58. The little red schoolhouse.
(Sunday school or kinder-
garten as I remember it.)
59. An incident of childhood which
has affected my personality.
60. When I was your age.
61. Growing pains.
62. My life and hard times. (Hard
times behind me.)
63. My experience in hospitals. (My
operation.)
64. It shouldn't happen to a dog.
65. He who hesitates is lost.
66. My conscience is my guide.
67. Blind date.
68. Childhood ambitions.
69. A strong influence in my life.
70. I learn from experience.
71. My housing problem.
72. Houses I remember.
73. The best class period this
semester.
74. I kept my New Year's
resolution.
75. What I have learned in the
rhetoric course.
76. How World War II affected my
life.
77. My most exciting experience
overseas.
78. How the war changed my plans.
79. The Army or Navy in
retrospect.
80. An important decision.
81. The world I left behind.
82. Rural Italy (France, Germany,
Holland, etc.) as I saw it.
83. Excitement in a quonset hut.
84. The foreign language I used in
military service.
85. The war made me thoughtful.
86. The days of dungarees.
87. An unusual war incident.
88. My service job (army, navy,
marine, air corps, etc.).
89. How I won the war.
90. My first day in the army (navy,
etc.).
91. What I learned from the war.
92. A midnight rendezvous.
93. I was there.
94. A day I would like to forget.
95. Too far from home.
96. Moonlight requisition (vets.
only).
97. A tense moment.
98. The army (or navy) caste
system.

PERSONAL REACTIONS

1. Why I dislike my name.
2. Why ——— is my favorite
sport.
3. Why I like a small town.
4. Why I go to church.
5. Why I am going to college.
6. Why ——— is my favorite
picture.
7. Why I do (not) play cards.
8. Why I smoke.
9. Why I like poetry.
10. Why I like music.
11. Why I believe in immortality.
12. Why I do not believe in
divorce.
13. Why I want to be a ———.
14. Why I like to read novels.
15. Why I prefer jazz to classical
music (or vice versa).
16. Why I joined the March of
Dimes.
17. Why I don't like comic strips.

18. Why I chose (did not choose) to join a fraternity (sorority).
19. My idea of hard work.
20. My idea of a good dinner.
21. My idea of a good course.
22. My idea of a gentleman (or a lady).
23. My idea of a dull evening.
24. My idea of a university.
25. How colors affect me.
26. How I feel in a dentist's chair.
27. How I feel when I have not prepared a lesson (or for an exam).
28. How I judge character.
29. How I read a newspaper.
30. How can I find time to study?
31. How will college benefit me?
32. How new clothes affect me.
33. How I would invest one thousand dollars.
34. How I treat nosy people.
35. How much am I influenced by advertising?
36. What animal I should like to be for a day.
37. What I got out of my summer job.
38. What I like in music or art.
39. What I don't like (or do like) about Illinois.
40. What I get out of music.
41. What religion means to me.
42. What's wrong with my home town.
43. What I think about science laboratories, student participation in extracurricular activities, air travel, campus hangouts.
44. What I'd do to prevent World War III.
45. What I want from life.
46. What I want in a wife.
47. What I have gained from bull sessions.
48. What I think about athletics.
49. What I think about the proposed university sports palace.
50. What I think about the University Health Service.
51. What I like about the Midwest.
52. What I really enjoy doing.
53. If I were a (Jew, Protestant, Negro, Catholic, labor leader, capitalist, congressman, or newspaper editor).
54. If I had but three days to live.
55. If I could reform my high school.
56. If I were mayor of my home town.
57. If I were president.
58. My future as I see it.
59. My favorite pastime.
60. My favorite breed of dog.
61. My favorite hero in fiction.
62. My hobby and why I like it.
63. My book (play, movie) of the year.
64. My favorite subject.
65. The finest movie I have ever seen.
66. My favorite writer.
67. My peevess and I.
68. My philosophy.
69. My family is a problem.
70. My favorite season. (I like winter.)
71. My dream vacation.
72. My favorite musical composer and why I like him.
73. My record collection.
74. My ambition.
75. My favorite prejudice.
76. My favorite spectator sport.
77. My budget.
78. My favorite movie star.
79. My favorite extracurricular activity.
80. My favorite magazine.
81. My worst enemy.
82. My hopes for next semester.
83. My favorite climate.
84. My alarm clock.
85. Being lonesome.
86. The most monotonous thing in the world.
87. Things I could get along without.
88. Effects of weather on my thoughts.
89. Names: advantages and disadvantages.
90. Music I enjoy.
91. A popular movie I didn't like.
92. Who's afraid?

93. Blue Monday mood.
94. What's the use?
95. Confused.
96. A worth-while organization to which I belong.
97. The most important day.
98. Who will teach my children?
99. It was music to my ears.
100. I like farm life.
101. The children of my relatives.
102. College is (is not) what I expected it to be.
103. My choice of veterans' organizations.
104. A character from fiction I should like to meet.
105. Three books I want to own and why.
106. May I suggest _____.
107. A freshman looks at college life.
108. Is farm work hard?
109. On learning French (German, Spanish, etc.).
110. Radio programs I detest. (I hate soap operas.)
111. I scrub for an education. (Working my way through college.)
112. I'm tired of veterans!
113. A perfect job.
114. Examinations are a bother.
115. A record collection I should like.
116. Things that make me happy.
117. I have chosen _____ as my major.
118. A legend of my town.
119. I discover _____.
120. I prefer _____.
121. The way I'd teach rhetoric.
122. I belong to a minority group.
123. A book I have read more than once.
124. "Oh, how I hate to get up in the morning." (Rise and shine.)
125. Smoke gets in my eyes.
126. Battle thoughts.
127. I like to study — but.
128. Homesick.
129. I am greedy for success.
130. Types of people that impress me.
131. The theme I've always wanted to write.
132. I am afraid of _____.
133. When I can think best.
134. The pleasure of getting something new.
135. A miserable feeling.
136. My favorite food (foods).
137. The relation of religion to my life.

FAMILIAR ESSAY

1. Pet peeves.
2. Life begins at 10 p. m.
3. College life: an adventure in friendship.
4. The virtues of idleness.
5. Pages from my family history.
6. Born thirty years too soon.
7. I'd like to write a book.
8. How can I find time to study?
9. Being contented.
10. Bargain shopping.
11. Crushes and hero-worship.
12. The most valuable thing I have learned at the University.
13. An important decision.
14. How I read a newspaper.
15. Campus crudities (or curiosities).
16. The male animal.
17. Fire!
18. A curious dream.
19. The girl (boy) that I marry.
20. Advice to entering freshmen.
21. Bull sessions.
22. The art of conversation.
23. House dance.
24. Passing courses in college.
25. Love and a uniform.
26. Never take a girl to a football game.
27. Let me cry on your shoulder.
28. Sinatra sings.
29. Proposal.
30. Lest we forget.
31. Plot for murder.
32. Worrying is good for you.
33. A young man's game.
34. Going around in circles.

35. A contribution to better living.
36. Unnatural characters in literature.
37. If an ancient Greek came to Chicago.
38. Shoe personality.
39. New brooms raise a great dust.
40. A happy profession.
41. What's in a name?
42. Nurses are angels.
43. Pride before a fall.
44. The tribulations of a university student.
45. Soap operas.
46. Why girls wear make-up.
47. Campus sideshows.
48. The problems of dating U. of I. men (women).
49. Why all the excitement?
50. ——— night on the radio.
51. Sidewalk hogs.
52. Tied to the apron strings.
53. Table manners.
54. Mental cruelty.
55. The ideal date.
56. What a home ought to be.
57. Heart trouble at school.
58. Crowding the heroes' bench.
59. Many brave hearts.
60. Library notes.
61. Radio commercials.
62. "Terry and the Pirates."
63. Why people have hobbies.
64. Radio crooners.
65. Borrowing and lending.
66. The life of a piggy bank.
67. The kind of friends who wear well.
68. Urbana weather.
69. Maturity has its drawbacks.
70. On a shoestring.
71. A real champion.
72. Going, going, gone.
73. The blue ribbon.
74. The world in which I live.
75. Cats are a nuisance (blessing).
76. The advantages of being a hermit.
77. "Look for the silver lining."
78. Borrowing.
79. College slang.
80. The value of pessimism.
81. The values of sleep.
82. Choosing a hat.
83. Different ways of washing dishes.
84. Telling fortunes.
85. On a dog.
86. The art of being friendly.
87. If I had twenty-four hours to live.
88. What it means to be poor.
89. On being independent.
90. Hitch-hiking successfully.
91. Saturday night.
92. Things are tough all over.
93. Twins.
94. The ideal husband (wife, or date).
95. Two sexes are plenty!
96. Skeleton in the closet.
97. Cosmetics: theoretical and applied.
98. Reading for pleasure.
99. Quizzes.
100. K. P.
101. Pledging.
102. Amateur dramatics.
103. Mother picks a school for Mortimer.
104. Brotherly love.
105. Fishing.
106. My idol.
107. What is a dog's life?
108. How intelligent is a horse?
109. Baby-tending, a harrowing job.
110. If everyone told the truth.
111. It's fun to observe people.
112. If we could read each other's minds.
113. They did it again.
114. Attacks of puppy-love.
115. Studying in the library. (Date in the library.)
116. Men: good and bad.
117. Facing facts in college.
118. A good spectator.
119. Amusement crazy.
120. Steve Canyon, a new acquaintance.
121. Horror movies.
122. The early worm passes more examinations.
123. A recipe for a satisfactory college life.
124. Christmas (birthday) gifts are a necessary evil.

125. A tale told by ———
(some relative).
126. The last call.
127. Once upon a time.
128. Dangerous living.
129. Hostelng (or some other
unusual occupation) is fun.
130. Chivalry is still alive.
131. Gentlemen prefer brains.
132. "The best laid schemes . . ."
133. Books which have become
movies.
134. Clothes do not make the man.
135. Is it important to know one's
weakness?
136. Bad habits and how to enjoy
them.
137. The picture of life one gets
from the movies.
138. Counting chickens before they
are hatched.
139. Useful pets.
140. Slang in the service.
141. The inflation of my budget.
142. Liars should have good
memories.
143. Love solves (ruins) all.
144. It's a wonderful life.
145. White tie and tails.
146. A fly in the ointment.
147. The demon rum.
148. Mice.
149. The jolly company.
150. Green pastures.
151. Practical people.
152. Midnight.
153. Reputation.
154. The tables turned.
155. Old age.
156. Ghosts.
157. Things old and new.
158. The key.
159. A pipe and slippers.
160. Come and get it.
161. The unknown.
162. The circus comes to town.
163. Better late than never.
164. Radio jingles.
165. A pair of gloves.
166. Moustaches.
167. Life on the farm.
168. Life in the city.
169. On hearing an alarm clock.
170. My correspondence.
171. The value of pets.
172. Superstitious practices.
173. Who is my neighbor?
174. Misleading labels.
175. What is success in life?
176. What is sportsmanship?
177. My definition of tolerance.
178. What is humor?
179. What liberty means to me.
180. What is meant by maturity.
181. The meaning of dreams.
182. Benefits of crying.
183. Voices I could identify.
184. What makes an educated
person today.
185. Qualities of friendship.
186. The educational value of
mistakes.
187. American slang.
188. The value of patriotic symbols.
189. Words are cheap.
190. What professionalism is and
is not.
191. How I classify people.
192. The influence of cartoons.
193. News commentators.
194. Career women.
195. Does society owe me a job?
196. The hobby shop—a new
business.
197. The urge to join.
198. A typical Northerner's view
of the South.
199. Radio advertising.
200. Comic movies.

CHARACTER SKETCH (TYPES)

1. Day dreamer.
2. Campus character.
3. Chicago taxi-driver.
4. The practical joker.
5. The proud parent.
6. The "successful" man or
woman.
7. The B M O C or B W O C.
8. The American woman.
9. Radio personality.
10. The drunkard.
11. The student.
12. Baby sitter.
13. Preacher's son (or daughter).

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|------------------------------|---|
| 14. Student waiter. | 26. The football idol. |
| 15. Mrs. Doakes, landlady. | 27. The local policeman. |
| 16. Camp counselor. | 28. College professors who bore me. |
| 17. Betty Coed. | 29. College men or women. |
| 18. Joe College. | 30. Radio announcer. |
| 19. Soldier on leave. | 31. U. S. O. gals. |
| 20. The movie detective. | 32. P O W's. |
| 21. The campus leader. | 33. Meet John Doe (the average American). |
| 22. A stag at a mixer dance. | 34. The alum. |
| 23. Straw boss. | 35. The great lover. |
| 24. That tired waitress. | 36. The traveling salesman. |
| 25. Bleacher athlete. | |

CHARACTER SKETCH (INDIVIDUALS)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. A person I have almost forgotten. | 14. A brief sketch of myself (any age, any mood). |
| 2. My friend, ——— (someone of a different race or nationality). | 15. Meet the sergeant. |
| 3. A person I can't bear. | 16. Meet the Doc. |
| 4. My favorite teacher (relative, commentator). | 17. Meet the family. |
| 5. The most wonderful person I know. | 18. My roommate. |
| 6. A first-rate teacher. | 19. My landlady. |
| 7. My distinguished ancestor. | 20. My most interesting friend. |
| 8. My best friend. | 21. The person I admire most. |
| 9. A person who has influenced my life. | 22. Grandfather. |
| 10. What I learned from Dad. (In defense of Dad.) (My Dad.) | 23. The man who never had a chance. |
| 11. The most prominent citizen in my home town. | 24. The most abused public servant. |
| 12. The most disreputable person I ever saw. | 25. An historical character. |
| 13. A person I will never forget. | 26. An interesting public personality. |
| | 27. A character from fiction I should like to meet. |
| | 28. My favorite hero/heroine. |
| | 29. Brothers under the skin. |
| | 30. An army character. |
| | 31. From the other side of the tracks. |

DESCRIPTION

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The most beautiful spot I know. | 13. A scene for a photographer. |
| 2. Colors in everyday life. | 14. Full moon. |
| 3. A tropical sunset. | 15. Night shift. |
| 4. Snowfall. | 16. January. |
| 5. Spring in the country. | 17. Campus sounds. |
| 6. An impressive sight. | 18. What my study table looks like. |
| 7. Scenic beauty on the campus. | 19. The most horrible sight I ever saw. |
| 8. Rural England (France, Belgium, etc.) as I saw it. | 20. The main street of my home town (describing stores, people, landmarks, etc.). |
| 9. A storm. (A snow storm.) | 21. A meal at a quick-lunch counter. |
| 10. Winter in Champaign-Urbana. | 22. Classroom atmosphere. |
| 11. Across the United States by rail. | |
| 12. A University building (interior or exterior). | |

23. A typical university scene.
24. Getting a meal at the Union at 5:30 in the evening.
25. Home of a famous person.
26. An old shop.
27. My favorite campus haunt.
28. A plan for a recreation room.
29. An efficient kitchen.
30. The state (county) fair.
31. A favorite restaurant.
32. Interesting people or unusual customs in _____.
33. Saturday night in _____.
34. The Windy City.
35. Sounds at night.
36. Farm sale.
37. In a strange land (real or imaginary).
38. A night in a Pullman berth.
39. A great engineering (or other) project.
40. Chicago night spots (any other city).
41. With pen and brush.
42. A street scene.
43. Interior of a business house (shoe repair shop, barber-shop, music store.)
44. Strolling down Michigan Boulevard (Maxwell Street, Fifth Avenue, Wiltshire Boulevard, Main Street).
45. Setting of a novel or a play.
46. The home town drugstore.
47. A lonesome road.
48. Sunday dinner. (Family dinner.)
49. Waiting for the 4:15.
50. A ramble down the Broadwalk.
51. My room.
52. The auto of the future.
53. The ideal home, room.
54. Our home (description).
55. Current campus costumes.
56. A mysterious sound.
57. My rhetoric class.
58. Bargain day.
59. Camp Roberts, Fort Dix, Navy Base.
60. Seven o'clock Saturday night at the Ice Rink.
61. Night on the streets of _____.
62. The art of seeing things.
63. Dancers.
64. The well-dressed man or woman.
65. Description of a foreign city.
66. Furlough in Paris (London, Shanghai).
67. Overseas food. (Field rations.)
68. Natives of Russia (China, Germany, etc.) I have met.
69. Operation XYZ.
70. The most disreputable building I ever saw.
71. My ideal date.
72. The Rose Bowl game.
73. The _____ music festival.
74. An interesting holiday in _____.
75. Cats.
76. The reception for the football team after the Rose Bowl game.
77. The ideal Illinois farm.

PROCESSES

1. How to care for a cat (or any animal).
2. How to keep your girl (boy) friend.
3. How to spend Sunday.
4. How to track a wild animal.
5. How to develop self-control.
6. How to prepare my favorite dish.
7. How to find happiness.
8. How to cure a cold.
9. How to take good snapshots.
10. How to use make-up.
11. How to prepare for an examination.
12. How to take notes.
13. How to get a job.
14. How to enjoy exam week.
15. How to plan a meal.
16. How to criticize music.
17. How to avoid air tragedies.
18. How to live on \$65.00 a month.
19. How to cure insomnia.
20. How to keep friends.
21. How to buy a used car.
22. How I read a newspaper.

23. How I balance my budget.
24. How our fraternity or club is financed.
25. How to spend a week end.
26. How to be a good roommate.
27. How to show cattle.
28. How to enjoy music.
29. How to loaf intelligently.
30. How to entertain a chaperon.
31. How to "apple polish."
32. How to plan a garden.
33. How to give a gentle hint.
34. How to entertain the family.
35. How to leave a party.
36. How to dress a baby.
37. How to make an impression on a girl.
38. How to paper a room.
39. How to get into a fraternity.
40. How to be popular.
41. How to grow tomatoes (or any vegetable, grain or flower).
42. How to administer artificial respiration.
43. How to choose a friend.
44. How to make tea.
45. How (not) to prepare for a journey.
46. How to solve the housing problem.
47. How to caddy.
48. How to make cheese.
49. How to review a book.
50. How to prepare ground for planting.
51. How to develop film.
52. How to write a critical paper.
53. How to make coffee.
54. How to spend your time profitably while standing in line.
55. How a camera takes pictures.
56. How to find what keeps your car from starting.
57. How to clean a rifle.
58. How to write a good theme.
59. How to enjoy a vacation.
60. How to be nonchalant when embarrassed.
61. How to hunt with a camera.
62. How to study systematically.
63. How to overhaul an engine.
64. How to sleep in class.
65. How to approach Dad.
66. How seeds scatter.
67. How I would change present (traffic, food, education) laws.
68. How to play a game.
69. How to drive a car.
70. How to shave.
71. How to spend an enjoyable evening in Champaign-Urbana.
72. Learning to ride a horse.
73. Plan for a garden.
74. Do's and don'ts for basketball fans.
75. Where automobiles are likely to break down.
76. Tinkering with machinery.
77. The serve in tennis.
78. Steps in making a garden.
79. Choosing a college wardrobe.
80. A good party game.
81. Earning one's way.
82. In case of fire —.
83. The best scheme I ever heard of to make money.
84. Making something out of nothing.
85. Making a hobby profitable.
86. Choosing clothes combinations.
87. Making social organizations successful.
88. Miracles nature never thought of.
89. Planning a small farm.
90. A good floor plan.
91. Safety gadgets for fliers.
92. How books are classified in a library.

COMPARISON AND CONTRAST

1. San Francisco versus Los Angeles as a vacation spot.
2. Why a good workman may not be a good foreman.
3. Effective and ineffective radio advertising.
4. Advantages and disadvantages of a co-educational school.
5. Comparison of my feelings about Illinois after the first semester with my feelings after the first week.

6. Comparison of men and women drivers.
7. Differences between college and high school.
8. Formal education versus business experience.
9. Quarter system versus semester system.
10. G. I. Joe and Joe College.
11. Joe College today and yesterday.
12. Evils and virtues of competition.
13. Blondes versus brunettes.
14. Advantages and disadvantages of having one's family on campus.
15. North and South.
16. Studying in the library and in my room.
17. Large school versus small school.
18. My high school and the ideal — a comparison.
19. Good and bad points of the fraternity system.
20. My taste in books — then and now.
21. Church life at home and on the campus.
22. Veterans' organizations.
23. Technique in novels (a comparison of style in two outside reading books).
24. British and American movies.
25. Living on the farm, in the city, in the small town.
26. Radio advertising then and now.
27. College life is similar to military life.
28. Television versus Hollywood.
29. Professional versus college athletics.
30. Christmas '44 and '46.
31. The West or South in fiction and in fact.
32. Home was never like this.
33. College and high school.
34. Greeks and Independents.
35. Drinkers and non-drinkers.
36. The Model-T and the Lincoln Zephyr.
37. Today's student problems.
38. The arts — present and past.
39. The difference between friendship and love.
40. Plane versus train travel.
41. Dairy cattle and beef cattle.
42. Bendix versus washboard.
43. A small town in Illinois compared with one in ———.
44. The coed as I dreamed of her and as she is.
45. A contrast between living and existing.
46. Flag waving versus patriotism.
47. Then and now: entertainment, war, dress, courting, farming, education.
48. Veterans and non-veterans as students.
49. The trade school boys (reserve versus regular army).
50. Tschaikowsky and Tin Pan Alley.
51. Compare: book and movie.
52. Republican and Democrat.
53. Before and after.
54. What I am compared with what I want to be.
55. Farm machinery today and yesterday.

PERSUASIVE EXPOSITION

1. Don't fail to tune in on ——— tonight!
2. Foreign customs we should borrow.
3. The only way to travel.
4. How I would change present traffic laws.
5. Borrowing as a good policy.
6. The best sport to watch.
7. In defense of bull sessions.
8. Let there be music.
9. Decline of courtesy.
10. The horse must come before the cart.
11. Some advice to incoming freshmen.
12. The best state in the Union.
13. All food prices off.

14. There ought to be a law.
15. Gambling on sports isn't funny.
16. Live and let live.
17. High school grads don't have a chance.
18. Everyone needs some kind of religion.
19. Illinois should have the honor system.
20. Generals rule the world.
21. American youth need education for happy family living.
22. Roadside advertising.
23. Radio ranting.
24. "Honor thy father and thy mother."
25. We should have a new building for sports events.
26. Freshmen should be eliminated from the Urbana campus.
27. The permanent site of the United Nations should be ———.
28. The recreation facilities in Champaign-Urbana are inadequate.
29. U. N. R. R. A. should be continued.
30. Suggestions for the improvement of rhetoric courses.
31. The need for precision.
32. We need a course in ———.
33. Race prejudice must go.
34. What a home ought to be.
35. In defense of sergeants.
36. The case for relaxation.
37. Let's have better movies.
38. Be a non-conformist.
39. One argument against war (could receive narrative treatment).
40. ——— should be a required course.
41. Don't count too much on first impressions.
42. Why not re-enlist?
43. Reforms needed in the field of education.
44. Smaller homes.
45. Outlining is practical.
46. Franklin Delano Roosevelt will (not) rank with Washington and Lincoln.
47. Children should (not) have the responsibility for caring for aged or ailing parents.
48. What should the negroes' attitude in politics be?
49. Early marriage is desirable.
50. Inter-collegiate athletics should (not) be abolished.
51. Compulsory education to the age of eighteen.
52. Raise teachers' pay.
53. Religion is a hoax.
54. Veterans demand too much.
55. The ideal plan to give Americans the best possible medical care.
56. Veterans' subsistence ought to be raised.
57. Tariffs must be boosted to protect the American farmer.
58. Decorations must be functional.
59. Give me a small school!
60. Comics serve a purpose.
61. Youth is the time for experiment.
62. College attendance is a civic duty.
63. Men (women, officers, athletes) are stupid.
64. Down with management (labor)!
65. Officers' clubs build character.

ARGUMENTATIVE EXPOSITION

1. Should college enrollment be limited?
2. Should income taxes be reduced?
3. A pro or con discussion of the college fraternity system.
4. Is college football being commercialized?
5. Should the United States take the lead in world disarmament?
6. The advantages (or disadvantages) of having too many friends.
7. Does the University need more residence halls?

8. Should eighteen-year-olds be allowed to vote?
9. Should the presidency of the United States be limited to two terms?
10. Should Congress pass anti-lynch legislation?
11. Are depressions inevitable?
12. Should qualified negroes be permitted to teach at the University of Illinois?
13. Should teachers organize?
14. Work your way through college?
15. Is the closed shop democratic?
16. Can a socialist state remain democratic?
17. Scientists: on tap or on top?
18. Advantages of good business ethics.
19. The right to strike.
20. Consolidation of rural schools.
21. Should Germany be restored economically?
22. A national bonus for G. I.'s.
23. Why learn foreign languages?
24. Scientific advances justify wars.
25. Do engineers need liberal arts courses?
26. Presidents should be elected by popular vote.
27. Rhetoric should not be required of all students.
28. Is Armistice Day now a mockery?
29. Who said progress?
30. Should rent control be removed?
31. Are too many people going to college?
32. Should Alaska and Hawaii be admitted as states?
33. It's a mistake to subsidize athletes.
34. What this country needs is a good third party.
35. Should we keep our Pacific bases?
36. Is co-education here to stay?
37. Advantages (disadvantages) of the Big Nine Rose Bowl.
38. Advantages (disadvantages) of student marriages.
39. Evils (values) of prerequisites.
40. Should socialized medicine be adopted?
41. Shall I drink?
42. Advertising pays, or does it?
43. Is Illinois' grading system fair?
44. The merger of our armed forces.
45. Simplified spelling.
46. Intelligence tests — so called.
47. Exams — a good or bad idea?
48. Labor versus management.
49. Draft extension. (Compulsory military training.)
50. Should all officers come up through the ranks?
51. Saturday classes.
52. Why get married?
53. Should Champaign-Urbana be dry?
54. Destroy atomic bomb formula.

SPORTS

1. Basketball as a spectator sport.
2. The nation's top basketball team.
3. The future of college sports.
4. Fickleness of sports fans.
5. The Big Nine goes West.
6. The Whiz Kids.
7. Crowding the hero-bench.
8. An outstanding sports event.
9. Winter sports.
10. Loss of Buddy Young.
11. Gambling in professional sports.
12. Big Ten basketball.
13. Are athletics physical education?
14. Physical education as a college requirement.
15. Women in sports.
16. Sports propaganda.
17. Why Illinois beat U. C. L. A.
18. What is sportsmanship?
19. Athletics at Illinois.
20. Recent changes in basketball (or other) rules and tactics.
21. Illinois' intramural sports program is adequate.

THE NEWS—NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

1. Inflation.
2. Foreign influences in American life.
3. Treatment of minority groups in the United States.
4. Democracy begins at home.
5. The peacetime army.
6. Our Good-Neighbor policy.
7. The next president.
8. The inauguration question again.
9. Yugoslavia, a challenge.
10. MacArthur and the amazing Japanese.
11. A year of tragic fires.
12. Molotov and the veto.
13. The age of lawlessness.
14. The future of labor.
15. Traffic accidents.
16. United States' political figures.
17. The behavior of G. I.'s in occupied territory.
18. Portal to portal pay.
19. The importance of credit in the business world.
20. The housing problem.
21. The G. I. Bill of Rights.
22. The privilege of being an American.
23. Congress in the saddle.
24. Airline crashes.
25. The place of the United States in the world today.
26. Racial (religious, social) prejudice in America.
27. Youthful vandalism in America.
28. The F. B. I. — its aims and accomplishments.
29. Why are prices still high?
30. Socialism comes to the United States.
31. Do we need birth control?
32. Do we need anti-labor legislation?
33. Filthy restaurants — a national plague.
34. The atom bomb as a force for world peace.
35. The Chinese puzzle.
36. What we should do with the atom bomb.
37. Freedom of the press.
38. The United States' attitude toward England's problem in Palestine.
39. What's wrong with the reconversion program.
40. Value of the South Polar expedition.
41. Causes of Russia's suspicion of us (or vice versa).
42. Labor legislation now pending in Congress.
43. Our greatest post-war problem.
44. Is there an Iron curtain?
45. India should be free.
46. Should Mr. Bilbo be seated?
47. Marshall as Secretary of State.
48. John L. Lewis — saint or sinner?
49. Eisenhower for president.
50. The governorship of Georgia.
51. The latest coal strike.
52. Man of the year, 1946.
53. The foreign policy of the United States.
54. What to do about immigration.
55. Byrnes did a good (poor) job.
56. The death of O P A.
57. MacArthur,

a great	} general	}
poor		
58. The United Nations.
59. Most interesting news story of the year.
60. Ray Eliot.
61. Buddy Young.
62. Harry S. Truman.
63. The trend toward military leadership.
64. What's wrong with our occupation policy in Germany?
65. The traffic fatality record.
66. A federation of European states.

SCIENCE

1. Possibilities in plastics.
2. Streamlined cars — coming or going?
3. Fabrics of the future.
4. How atomic energy can be utilized for industrial purposes.
5. Future of the automobile telephone.
6. Advantages of frequency modulation.
7. How long can a car last?
8. Jet propulsion.
9. The most interesting chemistry.
10. The place of science in modern life.
11. A modern invention.
12. Travel in the next decade.
13. The useful soy bean.
14. A recent development in medicine.
15. Vitamins.
16. The chemistry of warfare.
17. Plastic surgery.
18. Radio of the future.
19. Radar for commercial airlines.
20. A recent important scientific development.
21. Why your radio gives you trouble.
22. A useful gadget.
23. House of tomorrow.
24. Place of science in education.
25. The latest development in airplanes (or radar, highways, automobiles, etc.).
26. A great engineering project.

THE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

1. The place of the arts today.
2. Are literary standards being lowered?
3. Interior decoration (color schemes, period furniture, etc.).
4. American radio programs.
5. A few things everyone should know about art.
6. The illusion in the phrase, "modern civilization."
7. Amusement via the radio.
8. Schools of modern art.
9. Printing may become a minor art.
10. Movies insult the mind.
11. "Reading maketh the full man."
12. Profitable popular magazines.
13. The news magazine.
14. The explanation for Sinatra.
15. The future of dress design.
16. The best M. C. on the radio.
17. Three types of villains.
18. Types of American architecture.
19. The ingredients of a good mystery story, movie, play, book, or radio program.
20. Fred Allen — Jack Benny.
21. Movie villains — new style.
22. Movies and morals.
23. The value of the little theater group.
24. The best entertainment of '46.

FARMING

1. The value of 4-H clubs.
2. Scientific farming.
3. Crop rotation.
4. Social life in rural communities.
5. Farms: the life of the nation.
6. Crops of the future.
7. The development of hybrid corn.
8. Contour farming.
9. Contour plowing.
10. Dairy farming.
11. Development of hybrids.
12. Kinds of erosion and their causes.
13. What is a farmer's cooperative association?
14. The farmer: yesterday and today.
15. A problem (project) of the modern farmer.

RELIGION

1. The place of religion in the world today.
2. Does religion make sense?
3. Religion and life.
4. A modern code for living.
5. The basic teachings of my church.
6. The real values of going to church.
7. Religion on the campus.

THE CAMPUS

1. The student's role in modern life.
2. A deficiency in American university training.
3. Social prestige in college.
4. A married man goes to college.
5. The *Illini* is a good college daily.
6. The eighteen-year-old competes with veterans in college.
7. What will a college degree be worth in the future?
8. Can a smart student flunk?
9. Social life at the university.
10. Campus traffic.
11. Babbitts at the University of Illinois.
12. The Student Union building.
13. Champaign-Urbana bus service.
14. Book shortage.
15. A. A. books.
16. What makes a course popular with students.
17. Classroom morals.
18. The place of science in education.
19. Who deserves a college education?
20. Extracurricular activities.
21. Interracial relations on the campus.
22. Where people are living.
23. Prospects for the veteran after graduation.
24. Red tape.
25. Where students are likely to break down.
26. The problems of a veteran in college.
27. Some reasons students fail examinations.
28. The essential requirements of a good teacher.
29. Campus problems the Dean hasn't helped.